

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12-15 without prejudice or disclaimer as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
 - a liquid crystal display element;
 - a direct backlight having a light source located right below a back surface of the liquid crystal element;
 - a substantially rectangular diffusion plate which is interposed between the liquid crystal display element and the light source;
 - at least one optical sheet which is arranged between the diffusion plate and the liquid crystal display element; and
 - a transparent sheet which is arranged between the diffusion plate and the light source and has a contour which is substantially equal to a contour of the diffusion plate,wherein said at least one optical sheet is brought into contact with the diffusion plate, and four sides of the transparent sheet are adhered to the diffusion plate so as to define a gap therebetween that is sealed from outside air.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the transparent sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate using a pressure sensitive adhesive double-sided tape or a tacky adhesive agent.
4. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.
5. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display device includes a spacer which restricts a warp quantity of the diffusion plate in the direction toward the light source.
6. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 5, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.

7-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the light source includes a plurality of fluorescent lamps.

19-20. (Cancelled)